

Rutland County Treatment Court Participant Handbook



**Vermont Superior Court
Rutland Unit
Criminal Division
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(802) 786-3835**

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Welcome

Welcome to the Rutland County Treatment Court.

If you are reading this handbook you are being considered as a possible participant in the Rutland County Treatment Court (RCTC) program, based on your history of drug or alcohol abuse and problems with the law.

We believe that you can come to lead a more fulfilling life free of the influence of drugs and alcohol through participation in this program.

If you choose to participate in the Treatment Court program, you will be expected to follow the instructions given by the Judge and follow the treatment plan you set up with your case manager and treatment team.

This handbook is designed to give you information and answer your questions about the program. It will tell you what is expected of you while in Drug Court.



Program Overview



TOGETHER WE CAN CHANGE THE WAY

The RCTC Drug Court Program is a four-phase program for adult defendants who have one or more non-violent drug-related criminal offenses due to substance use.

It is an effort between the Superior Court Criminal Division, State's Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Department of Corrections, and Rutland Mental Health Services to help program participants to build and maintain a drug and crime free life.

Participation in the RCTC program is voluntary and includes: support in your recovery by professional clinical staff, frequent court appearances, random drug testing, and active participation by you in the treatment plan.

The Court will give incentives for progress and sanctions for non-compliant behavior. If you do not follow your treatment agreement or the program rules, you may face sanctions or be terminated and returned to the regular criminal docket.

The Treatment Court Team will work with you to make sure you understand what is expected of you throughout your participation in the program.

The Team



The RCTC Judge, will make all decisions regarding your participation in the Drug Court Program with help from the Drug Court Team. In addition to the Judge, the Team consists of the following members:

- Deputy State's Attorney
- Public Defender
- Program Coordinator
- Substance Abuse Clinician
- Case Managers
- Probation Office Representative

Confidentiality

State law requires that your identity and privacy be protected. The Adult Drug Treatment Court and its case managers have developed policies and procedures that guard your privacy. To participate in this treatment program, you will be required to sign Release of Information forms, for both Rutland Mental Health Services and the Judiciary, which will include Consent for Disclosure of Confidential Substance Abuse Information. This disclosure of information is for the purpose of hearings and reports concerning your Drug Court case and for collaboration with other providers regarding your treatment. If you have more questions about how confidentiality applies in Drug Court, please talk with your case manager.

Progress Reports



Before each Drug Court hearing, the Team meets to go over participant progress reports provided by the Case Managers. The report provides the team with information on your behavior since your last court hearing including;

- Attendance & participation in treatment,
- Attendance & results of urinary analysis
- Cooperation & attitude w/Case manager
- Other Issues related to your treatment plan
- Progress &/or events impacting progress
- Recovery community involvement
- Employment

During your hearing the Judge will ask you questions about your progress and discuss any problems you may be having. If you are doing well, program requirements may be reduced, or other incentives such as gift certificates may be provided. If your progress reports show that you are not doing well, the Judge will discuss this with you and determine future action, which could include a sanction. Sanctions can include assignments, returning to an earlier phase of treatment or jail time.

Court Hearings

Tuesday 2:00 – 4:30pm



You will be required to appear for treatment court hearings on a regular basis. Your current phase and behavior determine the number of hearings you are to attend monthly.

During the RCTC hearings the judge will call each participant to the center of the courtroom. The judge will engage you in conversation about your progress and/or any issues you're having in the program. Your hearing will take approximately 5 minutes but you are required to remain in the court room until all hearings are completed and you are dismissed by the judge.

At the end of your hearing you will receive a “next hearing card” as notice of when to appear. Always make child care arrangements for your scheduled hearing time. Court is not an appropriate venue for children due to distractions that interfere with the functioning of the court and benefit of the process for others. Please do invite family and friends who are supporting you in your recovery.

Failure to appear for a scheduled hearing may result in a warrant issued for your arrest.

Program Phases



The Drug Court Program lasts approximately 9 – 18 months, depending on your treatment and progress.

There are four program phases; orientation period, Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III.

Each participant must successfully complete one phase before moving onto the next. Each phase has a key concept and specific requirements you must meet before you are permitted to advance.

Getting Started

Now that you've been referred to drug court the team has begun to review your case to see if you meet the legal & clinical criteria to enter the program. Your screening with the program coordinator is part of that process. At your screening you will be set for a hearing for the following **Tuesday @ 2:30pm** where you will learn the status of your referral.

If you are eligible for the program you will enter the orientation period at your hearing and be assigned a case manager who will support you in meeting the requirements of the program. Your existing conditions of release may be amended to enable you to begin treatment.

When you enter Phase I you will be required to sign the Drug Court Contract. The contract will become your conditions of release and your obligation to the court.

Orientation	
Key Concept:	Show-up to all scheduled treatment and program appointments and court as directed
Length of phase:	Approximately 3-4 weeks
Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Rutland Mental Health Services Intake • Complete Evergreen clinical evaluation • Contact with Case Manager as directed • Honesty with clinical & court team about use & your treatment needs • Show –up at all urine screens as directed. • Show-up at court weekly • Attend all appointments & treatment as directed
Phase I	
Key Concept:	Recovery and Responsibility to Self
Length of Phase:	Minimum of 2 months
Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abstinence from all mood-altering substances, • Weekly court hearings • 2 or more urine screens weekly • Contact with Case manager as directed • Individual and/or group counseling sessions as required • Minimum of 3 12-step meetings per week • Develop employment or educational plan • Acquire safe & sober housing • Minimum of 30 consecutive days with negative drug tests required to advance
PHASE II	
Key Concept:	Maintenance of Recovery and Responsibility to Self and Others
Length of phase:	Minimum of 3 months
Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abstinence from all mood-altering substances, • Court attendance every 2 weeks or as directed • 2 or more urine screens weekly, • Contact with Case Manager as directed • Continuation of treatment as directed • Minimum of 3 12-step meetings per week • Minimum of 60 consecutive negative drug tests to advance • Employment or education • Maintain safe & sober housing
PHASE III	
Key Concept:	Reinforce a sober & legal lifestyle. Develop life goals including healthy social network
Length of phase:	Minimum of 3 months
Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abstinence from all mood-altering substances, • Court attendance at least every 3-4 weeks, • Urine screens as directed • Contact with Case Manager as directed • Attend treatment as directed • Complete Relapse Prevention/aftercare plan • Continue attending self help groups and building recovery support community • Maintain employment/continue educational pursuits • Minimum of 90 consecutive clean drug tests to graduate from the program

Drug Court Program Rules



You will be required to follow the rules outlined in a treatment court contract you will sign upon entering phase I. Some important points to remember from your contract are to:

- **Totally abstain from the use of illegal drugs and alcohol**
- **Inform your doctor that you are a recovering addict**
- **Notify your Case manager of all prescription medication**
- **Attend court sessions and treatment sessions as scheduled**
- **Submit to observed, random drug testing**
- **Do not associate or be around people who use or possess drugs**
- **Do not possess any weapons while in the program**
- **Disclose the presence of any weapons in your home by others**
- **Keep Case manager informed of your current address & phone number at all times**
- **Do not commit new crimes or break any laws**
- **Follow all rules & regulations imposed by the RCTC Team**

Incentive & Sanctions



Upon the recommendation of the Drug Court Team, participants may be given rewards or incentives for progress in the program. Incentives may include:

- Recovery Stones & tokens
- Gift Cards
- Reduction in program requirements
- Promotion to next phase
- Certificates

Sanctions

Sanctions will be given to you if you fail to comply with program rules, case manager requests, treatment plans or your drug court contract. The purpose of a sanction is to encourage you to follow through with the commitment that you have made to yourself and the Drug Court team.

Behaviors that May Warrant Sanctions:

- Substance use
- Missed or positive urine screens
- Missed appointments or court appearances
- Dishonesty
- Associating with others who are engaging in substance abuse or criminal activity

- Failure to comply with your Treatment Contract or your Conditions of Release

Some of the Possible Sanctions:

- Written Assignments
- Increased Treatment or Program Responsibilities
- Increased Curfew
- Community Service
- Incarceration

TERMINATION FROM ADULT DRUG TREATMENT COURT

Warrants, new crimes, or a violation of any aspect of your treatment plan may result in your being terminated from the ADTC Program. Other violations that could result in termination include the following:

- Missing and/or positive drug tests;
- Altering or attempting to alter a drug test;
- Demonstrating a lack of program response by failing to cooperate with the case manager or treatment program;
- Violence or threat of violence directed at the public, treatment staff, other participants of the program, or other clients of the treatment providers;
- **Consistent failure to show up for court or appointments: if you are missing from treatment or court for more than one month (30 days), including incarceration days for a new charge, you will be automatically terminated from the program and returned to the regular criminal calendar.**

For more information please see Attachment 3: Discharge from Treatment Court.

DRUG TESTING

You will be drug tested randomly throughout your entire participation in the ADTC Program.



- You will be assigned a color according by your Case Manager according to your program advancement.

- Each day, after 9:00 PM, you will be expected to call into the UA phone line, at (802) 775-5691 ext. 200
- If your color is announced, you will be expected to go to Dominion Laboratory, located at Rte. 7 South, in Rutland the following day between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM for a urine screen.
- You will be observed to ensure freedom from errors.
- If you fail to show for a test without permission, it will count as a positive test.
- If you have a positive test in any ADTC phase, the Judge, based on recommendations from the case manager and treatment team, will apply immediate sanctions. Sanctions may include time in jail to help you assist you to abstain from drug using behavior.

GRADUATION

Upon your successful completion of a treatment program and satisfaction of all other court requirements, including continued sobriety, you will graduate from the Adult Drug Treatment Court and disposition of your cases will occur as indicated in your plea deal.

Graduation from the ADTC Program is recognized as an important event. You are encouraged to invite family and friends to join you at a special ceremony as the ADTC Team congratulates you for successfully completing the program and achieving your goal to establish a drug-free life.

CONTINUING CARE

In order to provide you with a continuing support system and to assist you in maintaining sobriety, we encourage you to maintain contact with the RCTC, follow your after care and relapse prevention plan and utilize the skills you've acquired through out your time in treatment.

CONCLUSION

The goal of the Rutland County Adult Drug Treatment Court program is to help you in beginning a life free of dependence on mind-altering substances. The Judge and the ADTC Team are here to guide and assist you, but the final responsibility is yours. To succeed, you must be motivated to make a commitment to a drug free life.

SUPPORT PHONE NUMBERS

Area code 802

Rutland Mental Health Intake: 775-2381

Evergreen Substance Abuse Services: 747-3588

RCTC Case Managers:

Shari: 353-2276

Jess: 342-3524

Sara: 342-8288

Public Defender- Steve Zwicky: 747-2583

Court Coordinator- Kim Owens: 786-3835

Rutland Superior Court Criminal Division: 786- 5880

12-Step Program Switchboard: AA: 775-0402 ; NA: 773-5757

Urine Screen Phone aka UA Hotline: 775-5691 ext. 20

Crisis Services: 775-1000



One Day at a Time

Treatment Agreement

I agree to follow the Adult Drug Treatment Court rules outlined in this handbook.

Signed,

Participant

Date

Drug Court Coordinator

Date